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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02774 241756Z

73
ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00 AID-05

ERDA-05 /070 W
---------- 110813
R 241253Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4211

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2774

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA AND MADRAS
FROM BOMBAY FEB 24, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE
BOMBAY 0451

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR TECH IN
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR TEST PLANS

1. IN BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY PO COUNSELOR FEB 22, IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA SAID THAT ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF MAY 1974 NUCLEAR TEST HAD BEEN COMPLETED SOME TIME AGO. SETHNA REPEATED THIS EMPHATICALLY AGAIN WHEN QUERIED ABOUT IT. SETHNA SAID THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS IN DECIDING WHERE TO CONDUCT NEXT TEST. INDIANS WANTED THIS TO BE MUCH DEEPER THAN FIRST TEST, WHICH PRESENTED "SEISMIC WAVE" PROBLEMS IN AVAILABLE UNINHABITED AREAS WHICH HAD BEEN SURVEYED. SETHNA THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS SITE IN KUTCH AREA MIGHT PROVE TO BE MOST APPROPRIATE BUT THIS WAS STILL UNDER EXAMINATION.

2. SETHNA HAD "NO COMMENT" ON TIMING OF A SECOND INDIAN TEST OTHER THAN OBSERVATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SECOND TEST WOULD BE KEYED TO SPECIFIC PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR PEACEFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES, HE HESITATED AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE "SEMI-PRACTICAL" BUT STILL VERY MUCH IN THE EXPERIMENTAL CATEGORY.
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3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANY ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIAL HAS SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST INDIAN TEST HAD BEEN COMPLETED. UP TO THIS TIME, ALL SETHNA'S SUBORDINATES HAVE STRICTLY ADHERED TO THE "STILL UNDER STUDY" FORMULA IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL GENERAL. SETHNA HIMSELF, HOWEVER, HAD NOT ADDRESSED THE SUBJECT IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
SIGNED COURTNEY
UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SEISMOLOGY, NUCLEAR TESTS, SURVEYS, NUCLEAR TEST SITES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, TECH, IN
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